

Appl. No.: 10/581,989

Amtd. Dated June 21, 2011

Response to Office Action Mailed March 8, 2011

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to claim 1, A method for haulage of subsurface-mined material using at least two similar vehicles, each of said similar vehicles comprising a travel drive, comprising the steps of:~~

moving said at least two similar vehicles in a roadway section between a heading face and a continuously extended haulage means, and

conducting at least one material transfer from a first of said similar vehicles to a second of said similar vehicles between the heading face and a transfer of the material to the haulage means, wherein

said at least two similar vehicles (1, 2) comprise linear conveying devices (3, 4), and wherein

at least one linear conveying device of each vehicle is arranged on a vehicle frame so as to be raised and lowered, and to be displaceable in a conveying direction.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein said linear conveying devices of the vehicles comprise at least one articulated axle that extends transversely to the conveying direction.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to claim 2, wherein~~ A method for haulage of subsurface-mined material using at least two similar vehicles, each of said similar vehicles comprising a travel drive, comprising the steps of:

moving said at least two similar vehicles in a roadway section between a heading face and a continuously extended haulage means, and

conducting at least one material transfer from a first of said similar vehicles to a second of said similar vehicles between the heading face and a transfer of the material to the haulage means, wherein

said at least two similar vehicles (1, 2) comprise linear conveying devices (3, 4),

at least one linear conveying device of each vehicle is arranged on a vehicle frame so as to be raised and lowered, and to be displaceable in a conveying direction, and

sections of said linear conveying device of each vehicle are interconnected in an articulated fashion and are connected to separate actuating drives for raising and lowering the sections.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein at least one section of said linear conveying device is in the form of a sled adapted to be displaceable in a longitudinal direction of said vehicle.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein a conveying means (5) realized separately of said linear conveying device is arranged underneath said linear

conveying device so as to be retractable into said vehicle frame and raised into an extended position.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein said linear conveying device is arranged so as to be retractable into a position that essentially lies within an outline of said vehicle in a top view thereof.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein said linear conveying devices (3, 4) are conveyor belts.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein at least one section of said linear conveying device is connected to a sled adapted to be displaceable in a longitudinal direction of said vehicle.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein said linear conveying device and said additional separate conveying means (5) are both arranged so as to be retractable into a position that essentially lies within an outline of said vehicle in a top view thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to claim 3, wherein~~ A method for haulage of subsurface-mined material using at least two similar vehicles, each of said similar vehicles comprising a travel drive, comprising the steps of:

moving said at least two similar vehicles in a roadway section between a heading face and a continuously extended haulage means, and

conducting at least one material transfer from a first of said similar vehicles to a second of said similar vehicles between the heading face and a transfer of the material to the haulage means, wherein

said at least two similar vehicles (1, 2) comprise linear conveying devices (3, 4),

at least one linear conveying device of each vehicle is arranged on a vehicle frame so as to be raised and lowered, and to be displaceable in a conveying direction,

said linear conveying devices of the vehicles comprise at least one articulated axle that extends transversely to the conveying direction, and

sections of said linear conveying device of each vehicle are interconnected in an articulated fashion and are connected to separate actuating drives for raising and lowering the sections.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein at least one section of said linear conveying device is in the form of a sled adapted to be displaceable in a longitudinal direction of said vehicle.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein at least one section of said linear conveying device is in the form of a sled adapted to be displaceable in a longitudinal direction of said vehicle.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein a conveying means (5) realized separately of said linear conveying device is arranged underneath said linear conveying device so as to be retractable into said vehicle frame and raised into an extended position.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein a conveying means (5) realized separately of said linear conveying device is arranged underneath said linear conveying device so as to be retractable into said vehicle frame and raised into an extended position.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein a conveying means (5) realized separately of said linear conveying device is arranged underneath said linear conveying device so as to be retractable into said vehicle frame and raised into an extended position.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein said linear conveying device is arranged so as to be retractable into a position that essentially lies within an outline of said vehicle in a top view thereof.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein said linear conveying device is arranged so as to be retractable into a position that essentially lies within an outline of said vehicle in a top view thereof.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said linear conveying device is arranged so as to be retractable into a position that essentially lies within an outline of said vehicle in a top view thereof.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein said linear conveying device is arranged so as to be retractable into a position that essentially lies within an outline of said vehicle in a top view thereof.